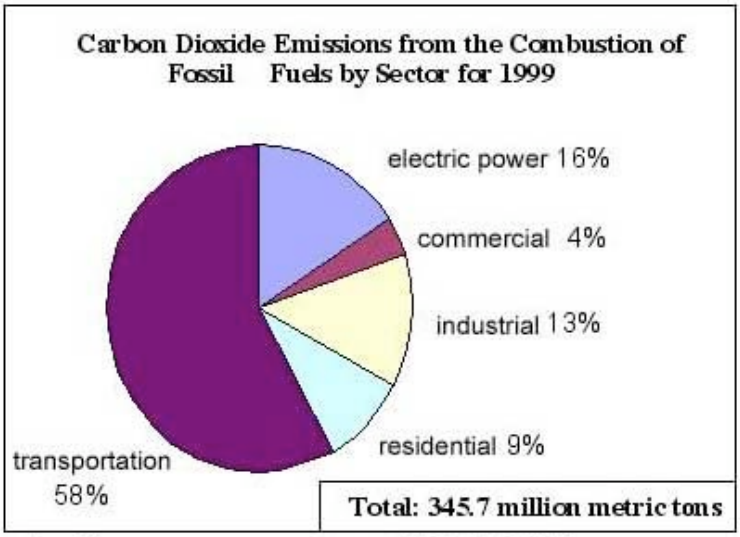
# Power Generation and Electric Utility Greenhouse Gas Reporting Protocol

**Interagency Agreement #:** 500-02-004 WA# 015-010
**Contractor:** California Climate Action Registry
**Grant Amount:** $75,000
**Match Funding:** $75,000, Energy Foundation
**Contractor Project Manager:** Robyn Camp
**Commission Grant/Project Manager:** Gina Barkalow
**Commission Contract Manager**: Gary Klein

**The Issue**

California statute established the California Climate Action Registry (Registry) as a nonprofit voluntary registry where organizations can establish greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions baselines, against which any future GHG emission reduction requirements may be applied. The Registry also encourages voluntary actions to increase energy efficiency and decrease GHG emissions. Using any year from 1990 forward as a base year, participants can record their GHG emissions inventory, and the state of California will offer its best efforts to ensure that participants receive appropriate consideration for early actions in the event of any future State, federal, or international GHG regulations.




http://www.energy.ca.gov/reports/600-02-001F/2002-09-14_600-02-001F-ES.PDF

To enable registration, the Registry developed a General Reporting Protocol (GRP) and a General Certification Protocol (GCP). These protocols give general guidance (to emitters and approved third-party certifiers) on how to report GHG emissions in a consistent, credible, transparent manner. Registry participants—including businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, state agencies, and other entities—use the GRP, which provides guidance for most GHG emissions sources.

However, the GRP does not provide the specific guidance that every industry needs to be able to most accurately report their entity-wide emissions inventory. Thus, the Registry is developing industry-specific reporting protocols to facilitate reporting of complete, consistent, comparable, accurate, and transparent data for key industries—the electricity generating sector among them. Approximately 16% of California's carbon dioxide emissions are from electric utilities and other power producers,[1] and the electricity sector will continue to be a major source of GHG emissions in the near future. As a result, many of the state's largest electric companies[2] are Registry participants, and this protocol will facilitate reporting of their entity-wide emissions inventories.

[1] California Energy Commission. November 2001. *Inventory of California Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–1999*. P600-02-001F. Figure ES-8.

[2] Anaheim Public Utilities, Burbank Water & Power, Calpine, LA DWP, Pasadena Water & Power, PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, SMUD.

**Anticipated Benefits for California**

Development of industry-specific reporting protocols for electric utilities and/or power generators will facilitate near-term reporting of GHG emissions, which in turn will help these large emitters identify internal inefficiencies and needed improvements. Such improvements will help to increase energy efficiency, provide significant cost and energy savings, and help prevent the negative effects of climate change on California's resources and citizens.

**Project Description**

PIER-EA funded work by the California Climate Action Registry to develop guidance for electric power generators and electric utilities on how to calculate, report, and certify their GHG emissions each year.

In this project, the Registry formed a workgroup of experts from industry—including power generators and electric utilities (Calpine, Florida Power & Light, Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Gas Company, PacifiCorp, Sacramento Municipal Utility District), from environmental organizations (Environmental Defense and the World Resources Institute), from regulatory agencies (California Energy Commission and New York Department of Environmental Conservation), and from industry associations (Business Council for Sustainable Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute), who together identified current best practices in GHG emissions reporting and reviewed and identified reporting issues that required additional guidance. The working group was instrumental in helping the Registry develop GHG emissions reporting recommendations for electric utilities and power producers.

**Results**

This project successfully developed a draft and final protocol to support standardized and accurate entity-wide reporting of direct and indirect GHG emissions produced by the electric power and utility (natural gas, electricity transmission and distribution) sectors, to accompany the General Reporting and Certification Protocols.

The final test will come upon implementation of these reporting and certification guidelines, but the Registry is confident that these documents address and resolve the significant issues facing the electric and natural gas utilities and power generators in reporting their annual inventories of GHG emissions.

The final Electric Power/ Electric & Natural Gas Utilities protocols are available at the California Climate Action Registry Web site: www.climateregistry.org/PROTOCOLS/Industry/

**Legislative Districts**

The California Climate Action Registry is in Los Angeles, and is located in Senate District 22 (Senator Gilbert Cedillo) and the 46th Assembly District (Assembly member Fabian Nuñez).

**Final Report**

The final report for this project, *Industry-Specific Reporting Protocol: Guidance for Entity-wide Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Produced by Electric Power Generators and Electric Utilities* (CEC-500-2005-012) is available online at http://www.energy.ca.gov/pier/final_project_reports/CEC-500-2005-012.html.

**Energy Commission Contact**

Gina Barkalow • 916-654-4057 • Gbarkalo@energy.state.ca.us